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NOR259 EPA933

0740 : LEAD DEFECTOR (NO PICKUP OF NOR 221):

BY HUMPHREY VAN LOO

THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS, FEB 7 (REUTERS) - A SENIOR CHINESE DIPLOMAT WHO FLED HIS POST HERE 10 DAYS AGO STILL IS IN HOLLAND BUT HAS NOT ASKED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM, A JUSTICE MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

OBSERVERS SAID THE FACT THAT LIAO HO-SHU, ACTING CHARGE D'AFFAIRES FOR THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC HERE, HAS NOT REQUESTED ASYLUM APPEARS TO INDICATE HE DOES NOT FEEL SAFE IN HOLLAND AND PLANS TO FIND A BETTER HIDEOUT IN ANOTHER WESTERN COUNTRY.

LIAO FLED HIS POST HERE IN THE EARLY HOURS OF JAN 24 AND HAS BEEN KEPT INCOMMUNICADO EVER SINCE.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, WHO SAID LIAO WAS BEING TREATED AS AN ORDINARY POLITICAL REFUGEE, WAS ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT A FLURRY OF RUMORS REGARDING THE CHINESE DEFECTOR.

ONE RUMOR WAS THAT THE DIPLOMAT HAD BEEN TAKEN TO BONN FOR INTERROGATION BY THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (C.I.A.)

ANOTHER OFFICIAL WAS ASKED ABOUT REPORTS THAT LIAO HAD BEEN MOVED FIRST TO C.I.A. HEADQUARTERS IN THE HAGUE, THEN TO BONN.

HE SAID "WE ARE NOT GOING TO PARADE THE FOX IN FRONT OF THE HOUNDS."

ANOTHER STORY CIRCULATING HERE AND IN BRITAIN WAS THAT LIAO WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST INTERNATIONAL SPY CATHERS FOR THE WEST FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

A FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID "I CANNOT GO ON DENYING ALL THE FANTASY BEING PRODUCED." HE WOULD ADD NOTHING FURTHER.

KMORE) (AHD) CPM/DS

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0744 : 1ST ADD THE HAGUE DEFECTOR:

X X X FURTHER.

LIAO WENT TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS HERE 10 DAYS AGO -- SOME REPORTS SAY IN HIS PAJAMAS AT 4 A.M. -- TO ASK IF HE COULD STAY IN HOLLAND FOR THE TIME BEING BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO GO BACK TO CHINA.

ONE VERSION OF LIAO'S ACTIVITIES SAYS HE WAS A KEY MAN IN CHINESE ESPIONAGE OPERATIONS FROM THE HAGUE AND PLAYED A LEADING PART IN THE ABDUCTION OF A CHINESE WELDER FROM A HOSPITAL

HERE IN JULY 1966. THE MAN HAD BEEN FOUND SERIOUSLY INJURED IN THE STREET OUTSIDE A HOUSE LEASED BY THE CHINESE DIPLOMATIC MISSION. WHILE DUTCH DOCTORS WERE EXAMINING X-RAY PLATES OF THE MAN, A CAR WITH DIPLOMATIC PLATES DROVE UP TO THE HOSPITAL AT NIGHT. FIVE OR SIX CHINESE STORMED INTO THE HOSPITAL, REMOVED THE INJURED MAN ON A STRETCHER, PUT HIM ON THE BACK SEAT OF THE CAR, SAT ON HIM AND TOOK HIM TO THE CHINESE MISSION, WHERE HE LATER DIED.

A DUTCH DEMAND THAT THE BODY OF THE MAN SHOULD BE HANDED OVER FOR A POST MORTEM WAS REFUSED BY THE CHINESE.

WHEN THE MAN WAS TAKEN TO THE CREMATORIUM THE BODY WAS CONFISCATED AND EXAMINED AND LATER RELEASED. THE POST MORTEM REPORT HAS NEVER BEEN PUBLISHED.

IT WAS SAID AT THE TIME THAT THE WELDER WAS ABOUT TO FLEE TO THE WEST.

THE INCIDENT LED TO A DIPLOMATIC DEADLOCK AND REPRISALS ON BOTH SIDES WHICH LASTED FIVE MONTHS, FINALLY BEING SOLVED IN DECEMBER, 1966 AFTER THE DUTCH CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN PEKING HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM RETURNING TO HOLLAND.

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0749 : 2ND ADD THE HAGUE DEFECTOR:
X X X HOLLAND.

AT THE TIME OF HIS DEFECTION, LIAO WAS THE ONLY REMAINING CHINESE DIPLOMAT IN THE HAGUE WHO HAD ANY CONNECTION WITH THE INCIDENT. IT IS BELIEVED THAT HE WAS DUE FOR RECALL TO PEKING AND THAT HE FEARED FOR HIS LIFE.

AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT CIRCULATING AMONG HAGUE DIPLOMATS SAYS ON THE DAY HE FLED, LIAO FIRST WENT TO THE U.S. EMBASSY HERE BUT U.S. OFFICIALS REFUSED TO TALK TO HIM.

THE CHINESE MISSION WAS INFORMED OF LIAOS ACTION AND REQUESTS BY MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE MISSION TO BE ALLOWED TO KNOW LIAOS WHEREABOUTS WERE REFUSED BY DUTCH AUTHORITIES.

HE WAS WHISKED AWAY UNDER A POLICE GUARD TO A HIDEOUT "SOMEWHERE IN HOLLAND" AND WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY INTERROGATED BY SECURITY OFFICIALS ON HIS ROLE IN THE HOSPITAL KIDNAPING INCIDENT OF 1966.

JUSTICE MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAID A STATEMENT WOULD BE ISSUED WHEN A DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON THE DURATION OF LIAOS STAY IN HOLLAND.

REUTERS (AHD) CPM/DS

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0406 : LIAO (SCHEDULED)

HONG KONG, FEB. 7 (REUTER) - A PEKING DEMAND THAT THE UNITED STATES HAND BACK A HIGH-RANKING CHINESE DEFECTOR COULD JEOPARDIZE RESUMPTION OF CHINESE-AMERICAN TALKS IN WARSAW, OBSERVERS HERE SAID TODAY.

ACCORDING TO THE HONG KONG OBSERVERS THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY DEMAND FOR THE RETURN OF LIAO HO-SHU ITS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN THE HAGUE UNTIL 14 DAYS AGO, PLUNGED PEKING-WASHINGTON RELATIONS TO A NEW LOW.

LIAO ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON TUESDAY. HE HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER 24-HOUR GUARD BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, WHICH IS QUESTIONING HIM FOR CLUES TO CHINA'S DIPLOMATIC MILITARY AND ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE AND OTHER KEY PARTS OF THE WORLD.

THE LAST SESSION OF THE 12-YEAR-OLD WARSAW TALKS -- THE ONLY AVENUE OF DIRECT DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES-- WAS IN JANUARY 1968. THE RESUMPTION OF THE MEETINGS, ALREADY MUCH POSTPONED, IS SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 28.

THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY, ACCORDING TO THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY, ACCUSED THE U.S. OF COLLUSION WITH THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT AND DELIBERATELY ENGINEERING THE DEFECTION OF LIAO.

IT SAID LIAO WAS INCITED BY THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT TO BETRAY HIS COUNTRY JAN. 24 AND THEN TAKEN TO THE U.S. BY THE C.I.A.

THE MINISTRY STATEMENT SAID CHINA LODGED A STRONG PROTEST WITH THE U.S. AND DUTCH GOVERNMENTS OVER THIS "GRAVE ANTI-CHINA INCIDENT."

KMORE) (AHD) EL/WP

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0410 : 1ST ADD PARIS LIAO:

X X X INCIDENT."

"THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HEREBY SOLEMNLY STATES THAT THE U.S. AND THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENTS MUST HAND LIAO HO-SHU BACK TO CHINA, OTHERWISE THEY MUST BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES ARISING THEREFROM," IT ADDED.

SINCE LIAO'S DEFECTION AND PRESIDENT NIXON'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS OPPOSITION TO PEKING MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS, CHINA HAS NOTICEABLY INCREASED HER ANTI-U.S. TRADES.

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ALSO SAID, "U.S. IMPERIALISM AND ITS JUNIOR PARTNER, THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT, SHOULD REALIZE THAT THE 700 MILLION CHINESE PEOPLE ARMED WITH THE INVINCIBLE THOUGHT OF MAO TSE-UNG ARE NOT TO BE TRIFLED WITH."

"YOU ARE LIFTING A ROCK ONLY TO DROP IT ON YOUR OWN FEET. YOUR WANTON ANTI-CHINA POLICY WILL DEFINITELY BRING YOU TO NO GOOD END," THE STATEMENT SAID.

REUTERS (AHD) EL/WP